

Camp Belger, Baltimore, Sept 11th 1862

Dear Father & Mother,

It's thursday afternoon and I find myself in camp a little out of Baltimore in a piece of woods. We ~~pitched our tent~~ left Norwich last Saturday on canal boats, we rode all night and the next day till night when we arrived at *Binghampton*, we slept in the boats all night and ~~the next we~~ monday about noon we got on board of the cars for Elmira. We *stoped* there *there* just long enough to *chang* cars, this train took us [CO] through to Baltimore.

We heard the firing of cannon from Fort McHenry this morning, they said it was the reception of the 6th regt. the one that was fired upon a year & a half ago, they are trying to make up friends again. [CO] There was 9 regiment passed through here the same day we came. There is between 40 & 50 thousand troops in and about this city and three gunboats lying off the ~~harbor~~ wharf to protect the city. Yesterday I went over to the camp of the 116th [?] Regt. it is right in sight of our camp in another piece of woods. ~~The city~~ Last night as ~~we were~~ I was spreading my blankets to go to bed, we were aroused by two men coming from the camp of the 116th with a message to the ~~adjutant~~ colonel that they had been [CO] "fired upon" and *suposed* that the rebels were coming ~~shure~~ sure. But it proved to be a false alarm.

The alarm *didnt* disturb me so but what I slept well enough *althoug* it was "on the soft side of a plank".

George & Jim Babcock have just got back from the city, they went down to ~~the~~ see Washington's monument, they said went up 280 ft. they could see the gunboat in the river and all of the shippings and the camp around the and ~~federal hill~~ *Federal* Hill which commands city. Tomorrow the captain is agoing to give ~~pass~~ four of us a pass down to see the monument and I *shal* go to Fort McHenry if I can. I have not been sick yet but I don't know how soon I will be, a great many of the ~~B~~ boys have been in the hospital. Healing is [?] has been in [?] [?] since we have been here.

~~I can't~~ I cannot write any more for I have got to go on guard soon.

You must excuse this [?] because I am in great hurry. Write soon with much love to all.

J. F. Brand